

1 A motion to seal documents that are part of the judicial record, or filed in connection
2 with a dispositive motion, as they are here, must meet the “compelling reasons” standard
3 outlined in *Kamakana*. Thus, a party seeking to seal judicial records must show that
4 “compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings...outweigh the general history of
5 access and the public policies favoring disclosure.” *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1178-79. The trial
6 court must weigh relevant factors including “the public interest in understanding the judicial
7 process and whether disclosure of the material could result in improper use of the material for
8 scandalous or libelous purposes or infringement upon trade secrets.” *Pintos v. Pacific*
9 *Creditors Ass’n*, 605 F.3d 665, 679 n. 6 (9th Cir. 2010) (internal quotation marks and citation
10 omitted). While the decision to grant or deny a motion to seal is within the trial court’s
11 discretion, the trial court must articulate its reasoning in deciding a motion to seal. *Pintos*, 605
12 F.3d at 679.

13 Defendants assert that Plaintiff’s medical records should be filed under seal because
14 they are confidential and contain sensitive information. (Doc. # 34 at 2.) While the court is
15 not entirely convinced that all prison records, such as medical and dental records must remain
16 sealed, it recognizes that courts have found that the need to protect medical privacy qualifies
17 as a “compelling reason.” See, e.g., *San Ramon Regional Med. Ctr., Inc. v. Principal Life Ins.*
18 *Co.*, 2011 WL89931, at *n.1 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 10, 2011); *Abbey v. Hawaii Employers Mut. Ins.*
19 *Co.*, 2010 WL4715793, at * 1-2 (D. HI. Nov. 15, 2010); *G. v. Hawaii*, 2010 WL 267483, at
20 *1-2 (D.HI. June 25, 2010); *Wilkins v. Ahern*, 2010 WL3755654 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 24, 2010);
21 *Lombardi v. TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp.*, 2009 WL 1212170, at * 1 (D.Ariz. May 4,
22 2009).

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1 Here, Exhibit A, which consists of Plaintiff's medical records, contains Plaintiff's
2 sensitive health information, medical history, and treatment records. Balancing the need for
3 the public's access to information regarding Plaintiff's medical history, treatment, and
4 condition against the need to maintain the confidentiality of Plaintiff's medical records weighs
5 in favor of sealing Exhibit A. Therefore, Defendants' motion to file Exhibit A under seal
6 (Doc. # 34) is **GRANTED**.

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8 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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10 DATED: December 14, 2011

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12 WILLIAM G. COBB
13 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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